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whether he used the cold process with NaOH or the boiling process with soda. Such a plant would necessarily be of considerable size since straw is light and considerable quantities of liquid (eight times the weight of the straw) must be used. Besides the treatment, the processed straw must be washed to remove the alkali. All of this involves labor and increases the cost of the process. Besides it seems probable that in America it will always be possible to grow corn or sorghum for feed much more cheaply than to process straw even if the latter were wholly a waste material, which is not the case.

Without doubt the attention of experiment stations should be and probably has been called to this process but it seems unwise even to suggest it to the average farmer.

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#### DOES THE BIBLE TEACH EVOLUTION?

THE creation of man according to the story in Genesis is placed by chronologists at about 4004 B.C. The acceptance of this date or indeed of any variation from it that has been suggested carries the imperative implication that all existing types of man—white, yellow, red, brown and black—Englishman, Japanese, Malay and Negrito—have all descended from Adam and Eve. It matters not what anthropological characters may be assumed for Adam and Eve, the diversity of their supposed progeny illustrates what the biologist means by evolution. The Biblical story with its logical implications stamps every believer in it as an evolutionist. However, no serious scientific man will admit for a moment that human evolution has proceeded as rapidly as the story in Genesis necessarily supports. Viewed from the evolutionist's standpoint, the theory involved in the Biblical story makes Darwin's ideas seem exceedingly conservative. Really Mr. Bryan ought to attack Darwin as a hide-bound reactionary whose notions regarding the slow rate of modification in species seriously challenges the truth of evolution as taught by the Bible.

CHARLES V. PIPER

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*A History of the Whale Fisheries, from the Basque Fisheries of the Tenth Century to the Hunting of the Finer Whale at the Present Date.* By J. T. Jenkins, D.Sc., Ph.D. London, H. F. and G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, W. C., 1921. 336 pages, with reproductions from photographs and old engravings.

In the preface to this book, the author tells us that no attempt has hitherto been made to give within a brief compass a detailed history of the whale fisheries: to the best of our knowledge and belief, this statement is in the main correct and the volume under consideration may be looked upon as an effort to remedy this lack of information. Parts of the story have, it is true, been told, and told very well, particularly that relating to the United States, and these Mr. Jenkins has passed over somewhat lightly, devoting much time and care to bringing together and making available for the reader who knows only English the story of the early days of the fishery and especially the important part played by the Dutch who, having practically dispossessed the English, for more than a century successfully prosecuted the chase of the whale about Spitzbergen or, as it was constantly called, Greenland. At the height of this fishery, the decade from 1680-89, nearly 2,000 vessels sailed to Spitzbergen—1,966, to be exact—and the catch of whales was 9,487, but from that time, with certain spurts, the industry gradually declined, coming to an end about 1800.

Mr. Jenkins has been at great pains to give us the details of this whaling, the size of the vessels—often much larger than the average American whaler of the fifties—their crews, equipment, even provisions and the manner of capture and trying out. All of this is interesting and important, to most of us it is new, and for this information we are most grateful. In one detailed list of equipment is noted "150 hogsheads of cedar and four tunnes of wines, eight kintals of bacon and six hogsheads of beefe," proportions that might have met with the approval of Falstaff.

One point is surprising—the comparatively